

*****C O N F I D E N T I A L*****S COPY

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FM THE WHITE HOUSE

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TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIA [] WH37242

25X1

NOVEMBER 6, 1973

FOR: AMBASSADOR UNGER
BANGKOK
FROM: BRENT SCOWCROFT

REVIEW PHNOM PENH RICE SITUATION SUGGESTS STOCKS WILL BE LOW WHEN MEKONG BEGINS RECEDING IN MID-DECEMBER EVEN WITH KOREAN RICE DIVERSION RECENTLY ARRANGED AND 25,000 TONS U.S. RICE AWARD EXPECTED THIS WEEK.

WE INTEND TO RENEW EFFORTS TO ALLAY CONGRESSIONAL CONCERN ABOUT ADDITIONAL 12,500 TON PURCHASE IN THAILAND AND BELIEVE WE HAVE GOOD CHANCE GETTING AUTHORITY MOVE AHEAD BY END OF THIS WEEK.

BEFORE DOING SO WE NEED TO MAKE SURE YOU ARE CONFIDENT THAT RTG WILL STICK BY EARLIER COMMITMENT TO SUPPLY RICE FOR VERY EARLY SHIPMENT. IT WILL BE ESSENTIAL TO ACQUIRE RICE AND ARRANGE SHIPMENT FOR ARRIVAL IN MID-DECEMBER.

WOULD APPRECIATE EARLY REPLY. ONCE WE OBTAIN GO-AHEAD, FORMAL AUTHORITY TO PROCEED WILL BE SENT THROUGH NORMAL CHANNELS.
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ON-FILE NSC RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

MORI/CDP
C05080586

*****WHSR COMMENT*****

HOWE,SECFLE

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